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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited via facsimile to The Honorable Commissioner in the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Attention: Bradley T. King whose telephone number is (703) 308-8346 and fax number is (703) 872-9306 on February 27, 2004.

David H. Brinkman, Reg. No. 40,532

Date

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Shade et al.
Serial No.: 09/620,177
Filed: July 20, 2000
Confirmation No.: 3895
Group Art Unit: 3683
Examiner: King, Bradley T.
Title: STAB JOINT COUPLING
Atty Docket: CTH-108

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

February 27, 2004

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed on November 28, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 14 of this paper.